

Serial No. 09/917,578 Page 2

Claims 1-12, 14-17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Fujihara et al. It is respectfully submitted that it is not proper to so reject these claims. It is assumed that the inclusion of all claims 1-21 on page 2 of the Office communication is a typographical error, and need not be further discussed, inasmuch as claims 13 and 18 were indicated as allowable if appropriately amended.

The Examiner's reasons for rejecting claims 1-12, 14-17 and 19-21 have been reviewed; however, they misrepresent the Fujihara et al. construction. The Fujihara et al. ferrule 37 alone or combined with ferrule support member 57, or ferrule 72 are not an adhesive. In the present invention, as claimed, component 46 is a symmetrically shaped adhesive. Therefore, the Fujihara et al. ferrule is not the equivalent of symmetrically shaped adhesive 46 of the present invention. Any adhesive which may be in ferrule 37 or 72 of Fujihara et al. also cannot be termed "symmetrically shaped" unless resort is made to the present invention. Further, as stated in a prior amendment, the Fujihara et al. patent does not disclose any use of an adhesive shaped by a symmetrical cavity; all of its conical members are solid, soldered-together members.

A comment is appropriate should one compare the wording of claims 1-3, 11 and 17 as presently submitted with the wording of the corresponding claims as proposed in the facsimile communication of 15 May 2003; the latter has changed wording. However, it is submitted that the concepts expressed in both versions are the same; the changed wording in the proposed version only emphasizes the differences between these claims and the Fujihara et al. disclosure. The Examiner might think otherwise and, therefore, the Examiner is invited to telephone the below signatory to discuss the possibility of employing the same or similar language that would result in allowance of these claims.

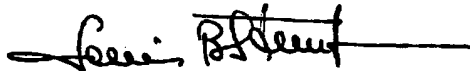
Serial No. 09/917,578 Page 3

In a telephone conference with the Examiner on or about 12 May 2003, the Examiner opined that such changes as made in the proposed amended claims as included in the later facsimile communication of 15 May 2003 might raise a question of raising new issues which would require a further search. However, no new issues are raised thereby. Independent claims 1-3, 11 and 17 have claimed the concept, e.g., in claim 11 "whereby the adhesive, as symmetrically shaped by the cavity, precisely positions the fiber to the chip." The "per se" as added to the language is only for emphasis.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-12, 14-17 and 19-21 and allowance thereof is respectfully solicited. Allowance of objected-to, now amended, claims 13 and 18 is in order.

Should the Examiner wish to hold a telephone conference with the below signatory, the below signatory will be away from his office from 10 August through 21 August; he will be available on 07-08 August and 22 August and thereafter.

Respectfully submitted,



Lewis B. Sternfels
Registration No. 20,761
Attorney for Applicants

3100 Inglewood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90066-1062

Telephone: (310) 390-4022
Facsimile: (310) 398-0591
email: sternfels@lawpat.com

Enc. Version *WITH* Markings to Show Changes Made in Claims

Docket No. GCD 98-55-USPATENT

In re Application of)
ARNOLD E. GOLDMAN, K. JUERGEN FLAMM,)
JOHN G. MARK & IKE SONG)
Serial No. 09/917,578) Art Unit 2873
Filed: 28 July 2001)
For: SLEEVE FOR PIG-TAILING OPTICAL FIBER) Examiner William C. Choi

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE - CLAIMS 13 AND 18

(Per Response to Office Action dated 06 MAY 2003)

c 1 1. (Once Previously Amended) A vehicle for enabling attachment of an optic
2 fiber to a multi-integrated optic chip in optical communication therewith, and for
3 maintaining alignment of the fiber at its end adjacent the chip, comprising:
4 a sleeve having a symmetrically-shaped cavity bounded by termini which
5 respectively interface with the chip and the fiber; and
6 an adhesive disposed within the cavity and symmetrically shaped thereby
7 for precisely positioning and bonding the fiber to the chip.

1 2. (Twice Previously Amended) A vehicle for enabling attachment of an optic
2 fiber to a multi-integrated optic chip in optical communication therewith, and for
3 maintaining alignment of the fiber at its end adjacent the chip, comprising:
4 a sleeve which has a symmetrically-shaped cavity bounded by termini that
5 respectively interface with the chip and the fiber, and in which
6 said cavity has an axis and is internally bounded by a wall which is
7 substantially centered on the axis and which extends from said chip-interfacing
8 terminus to said fiber-interfacing terminus,
9 said termini are centered on the axis, and
10 a line, lying within any plane intersecting the axis at right angles
11 thereto and terminating in said cavity wall, is bisected into two equal segments; and
12 an adhesive disposed within the cavity and symmetrically shaped thereby
13 for precisely positioning and bonding the fiber to the chip.

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1 3. (Twice Previously Amended) A vehicle for enabling attachment of an optic
2 fiber to a multi-integrated optic chip in optical communication therewith, and for
3 maintaining alignment of the fiber at its end adjacent the chip, comprising:
4 a sleeve which has a symmetrically-shaped cavity bounded by termini that
5 respectively interface with the chip and the fiber, and which is configured to fit onto the
6 chip and is disposed to accept the fiber; and
7 an adhesive disposed within the cavity and symmetrically shaped thereby
8 for precisely positioning and bonding the fiber to the chip.

1 4. A vehicle according to claim 3 wherein:
2 said cavity has an axis and is internally bounded by a wall which is
3 substantially centered on the axis and which extends from said chip-fitting terminus to
4 said fiber-accepting terminus;
5 said termini are centered on the axis; and
6 a line lying within any plane intersecting the axis at right angles thereto
7 and terminating in said cavity wall is bisected into two equal segments.

1 5. A vehicle according to claim 4 wherein said cavity wall slopes from said
2 chip-fitting terminus to said fiber-accepting terminus.

1 6. A vehicle according to claim 4 in which said sleeve so controls said
2 adhesive as to provide and preserve a symmetrical bonding of the fiber with respect to
3 the chip over gravitational and wicking effects.

1 7. A vehicle according to claim 6 in which said cavity wall is shaped as a
2 truncated right circular cone.

1 8. A vehicle according to claim 6 in which said cavity wall is shaped as a
2 truncated pyramid.

1 9. A vehicle according to claim 4 in which said sleeve is temporarily attached
2 to said adhesive and the chip.

1 10. A vehicle according to claim 4 in which said sleeve is permanently
2 attached to said adhesive and the chip.

1 11. (Once Previously Amended) A method for attaching an optic fiber to an
2 optic chip and for maintaining alignment of the fiber at its end adjacent the chip,
3 comprising the steps of:

4 positioning a sleeve having a symmetrically shaped cavity on the chip;
5 placing an adhesive into the sleeve cavity for being symmetrically shaped
6 thereby;

7 inserting the fiber into the cavity;

8 securing the fiber to the chip; and

9 curing the adhesive whereby the adhesive, as symmetrically shaped by
10 the cavity, precisely positions the fiber to the chip.

1 12. A method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of aligning the
2 fiber within the cavity and positioning the fiber end adjacent the chip.

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Cont'd

1 13. (Amended) A method [according to claim 11 further comprising the step
2 of] for attaching an optic fiber to an optic chip and for maintaining alignment of the fiber
3 at its end adjacent the chip, comprising the steps of:
4 positioning a sleeve having a symmetrically shaped cavity on the chip;
5 placing an adhesive into the sleeve cavity for being symmetrically shaped
6 thereby;
7 inserting the fiber into the cavity;
8 securing the fiber to the chip;
9 curing the adhesive whereby the adhesive, as symmetrically shaped by
10 the cavity, precisely positions the fiber to the chip; and
11 removing the sleeve from the chip after the adhesive has cured.

1 14. A method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of leaving the
2 sleeve securely on the chip after the adhesive has cured.

1 15. A method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of providing
2 the sleeve cavity with a truncated pyramid configuration.

1 16. A method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of providing
2 the sleeve cavity with a truncated right circular cone configuration.

1 17. (Once Previously Amended) A method for attaching an optic fiber to an
2 optic chip and for maintaining alignment of the fiber at its end adjacent the chip,
3 comprising the steps of:
4 utilizing a sleeve having a symmetrically shaped cavity;

5 placing an adhesive into the sleeve cavity for being symmetrically shaped
6 th reby;
7 positioning th sleeve onto the chip;
8 inserting the fiber into the cavity;
9 aligning the fiber within the cavity and positioning the fiber end adjacent
10 the chip;
11 securing the fiber to the chip; and
12 curing the adhesive whereby the adhesive, as symmetrically shaped by
13 the cavity, precisely positions the fiber to the chip.

1 18. (Amended) A method [according to claim 17 further comprising the step
2 of] for attaching an optic fiber to an optic chip and for maintaining alignment of the fiber
3 at its end adjacent the chip, comprising the steps of:
4 utilizing a sleeve having a symmetrically shaped cavity;
5 placing an adhesive into the sleeve cavity for being symmetrically shaped
6 thereby;
7 positioning the sleeve onto the chip;
8 inserting the fiber into the cavity;
9 aligning the fiber within the cavity and positioning the fiber end adjacent
10 the chip;
11 securing the fiber to the chip;
12 curing the adhesive whereby the adhesive, as symmetrically shaped by
13 the cavity, precisely positions the fiber to the chip; and
14 removing the sleeve from the chip after the adhesive has cured.

1 19. A method according to claim 17 further comprising the step of leaving the
2 sleeve securely on the chip after the adhesive has cured.

1 20. A method according to claim 17 further comprising the step of providing
2 the sleeve cavity with a truncated pyramid configuration.

1 21. A method according to claim 17 further comprising the step of providing
2 the sleeve cavity with a truncated right circular cone configuration.

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